



# Quill de Ville

[www.WritersLeagueofTheVillages.com](http://www.WritersLeagueofTheVillages.com)

Writers League of The Villages Newsletter

## May 2026 Newsletter

Have a quick look at our Calendar of [Live Events](#) for May – Next Page

The May [Wine and Words](#) show will be on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss these talented writers sharing their personal stories in a live open format.

Check out the agenda for our next [General Meeting](#) on Wed, May 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9 till 11 am. NOTE: LOCATION CHANGE -- Lake Miona Recreation Center

A current list of available [Writing Groups](#) and a way to reach out to them.

Updates and thoughts from our indispensable [Communications Director Rita Boehm](#).

Listings inside for our "[Local Author Tuesdays](#)" book signings. Come join us and support WLOV and our own authors.

A letter from our President and friend, [Bob Peterson](#), and from your editor, "[Kindred Spirits](#)"

**Important Reminder!** The May 13<sup>th</sup> General Meeting will be held at [Lake Miona Recreation Center, 1526 Buena Vista Blvd](#)

Visit our constantly evolving website. Our webmaster, Paula Howard has created a tremendous resource for all of us. [writersleagueofthevillages.com](http://writersleagueofthevillages.com)

## *May 2026 Upcoming Events Quick Look Calendar*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Featured Authors</b>
Thursday 5/7	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Wine and Words	Riverbend Rec Center	Frank Lancione 703-626-7514	Co-authors, Diane Dean and Carrie Murgittroyd, present “Shorts”  Donna Hoover presents, “Wandering in The Shadows”
Wednesday 5/13/8	9:00 – 11:00 am	WLOV Monthly Meeting	Lake Miona Rec Center	Casel Burnett 859-240-9853	Journalist for the Daily Sun <i>JT Wilcox</i>
Tuesday 5/12	11:00 – 2:00 pm	Book signing	All Booked Up Colony Plaza	Donna Hoover <a href="mailto:duciesmom@aol.com">duciesmom@aol.com</a>	Carrie Murgittroyd, Kate Watts, Richard McMaster
Tuesday 5/19	12:00 - 4:00 pm	Book signing	Patchington Spanish Springs	Judith Glynn 212-265-7915	Author and past president of WLOV, Jeanne Rogers

### ***Important Notice!***

- This month’s general meeting -- Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> -- will be held at *Lake Miona Rec Center, 1526 Buena Vista Blvd.*
- *Note: Meeting hiatus - NO general meetings in the months of June and July.*
- *General meetings resume in August at the Laurel Manor Rec Center.*

*Monthly General Meeting Agenda  
Wednesday May 13, 9am till 11am  
Lake Miona Rec Center*

- *The meeting will begin promptly at 9 am, with a message from our Vice President, Casel Burnett, presiding over the May General Meeting in Bob's absence.*
- *Reports from our leadership team.*
- *Vice President Casel Burnett will present his vision for educational opportunities for WLOV members*
- *Newest members will tell us a bit about themselves.*
- *Newly published authors will present their new books and publications.*
- *Formal presentation: JT Wilcox, writer and journalist for the Daily Sun.*

## *Message from the WLOV President*



Hi Writers,

April is gone like a dream, and May is upon us. Like our unconcerned sand hill crane population, most of our seasonal residents (“snow birds”) have started their northerly mass migration for the summer. I’m afraid to admit I’m one of them, so I won’t be here for a few WLOV meetings. I’d love to stay in Florida all year round, but my wife, Kathy, can’t stand the heat. If I stayed (that is to say, “stayed married”), I’d likely end up in a body bag by the Fourth of July under mysterious circumstances. If you’re looking for a story plot, here’s one: Normally docile housewife, 63, becomes an unhinged murderer when the temperature gets above 91F.

May is a perfect time to do some writing, as things calm down and get back to normal here in The Villages. One of my major sources of inspiration is my dreams. Dreams are an amazing fountain of endless creativity if you pay attention to them. If you can’t remember your dreams, try taking vitamin B6 for a week, then stop taking it. That often helps me remember mine. Once you remember your dreams, train yourself to write them down every day. You may be amazed. Another source of inspiration is you guys, the writers of WLOV. Hearing your tales and accomplishments is very motivating, so thank you.

**IMPORTANT:** our next general meeting will be on May 13, at 9 a.m., at Lake Miona Rec Center. Note the temporary location is Lake Miona Rec Center, not the usual Laurel Manor, which will be closed for a couple of months for renovations. Our Vice President, Casel Burnett, will preside. As always, there will be no WLOV meeting in June or July. The August meeting at Laurel Manor will be centered around our local critique groups. Each of the local critique groups is invited to come to the meeting and talk about their group.

Keep dreaming and keep writing!

Bob Peterson

## *From the Desk of the Editor*



### *Kindred Spirits,*

For all of you who attend the monthly general meetings for WLOV, you already know those meetings begin promptly at 9am. But long before the gavel comes down to get things started, the tables and chairs at Laurel Manor Rec have already been chock full for a while. When I walked into the crowded room, I could hear the familiar human buzz created by many voices melding into one unifying sound. There's an energy that floats along, as if carried along by the melodic murmur that hovers over the cavernous room. Then, just as all the stories began to percolate, the call to order came, the hypnotic din of voices quieted, and the room fell silent.

My first year coming to the general meeting, I would slide in unnoticed and sit alone somewhere in the back rows. I was a new writer, didn't know anyone, and observing the world around me from afar suits my nature anyway. Going to those meetings as a first-year writer connected me to the energy and kindred spirits surrounding me. It lifted me up just being there. Sitting alone in a crowd is my way of being able to better see the world around me. It's my way of slowing things down enough to see life as if it were a slow-motion movie, and all I needed to do was stay silent in the audience long enough, and I would understand.

So what did I learn sitting by myself in the back rows during those early years? I think to answer that, I'm going to share something I wrote about my friends and neighbors here in The Villages. Now that I've moved out of the shadows of the back rows, and gotten to know more people in our writing circle, I would like to apply these words to my extended WLOV community as well;

*“When we gather, it's a lot like a kitchen table discussion. We don't look past each other. We take refuge in our sameness, and we tolerate our differences. We rejoice in each other's accomplishments, no matter how insignificant, and we care about each other's human condition. We hold fast to each other when the world spins one of us around like a top. We celebrate each other's lives, and we mourn each other's losses. We are a family of circumstance, and we are a family of choice, and many times, I am grateful to all those people beyond words.”*

So, if you'd like to meet a group of people where everyone has a story to tell, some being taller than others, then come to our general meeting and say hello. We'd love to have you there, and you can sit up front if you like.

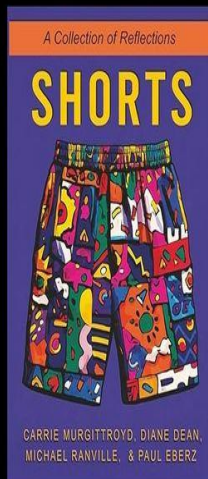
*Peace,  
Tom Bruce*

**Live event! Wine and Words, Thursday, May 7, 2026  
Riverbend Recreation Center, Doors open at 6pm, and the  
presentation begins at 6:30  
Created and Hosted by Frank Lancione**



## Diane Dean & Carrie Murgittroyd

What's the experience like when you team up with other successful authors and publish a collection of your individual works?



Diane Dean and Carrie Murgittroyd will present ***“Shorts”***, a wonderful new collaborative book-

## Donna Hoover

How do you tell a story this personal, this painful, this important?

How do you communicate its emotional complexity in a vivid, visceral way that makes people want to buy it, read it?



Donna Hoover will present ***“Wandering in the Shadows”***  
A true story of hope and transformation

## *Local Author Tuesdays Book Signings*



*All Booked Up Bookstore at Colony Plaza,  
Tuesday, May 12th*

*Authors: Carrie Murgittroyd - **Death in  
Davisburgh,**  
Kate Watts – **Kate Ahoy Series and  
Friends,**  
Richard McMaster – **The Attic.***



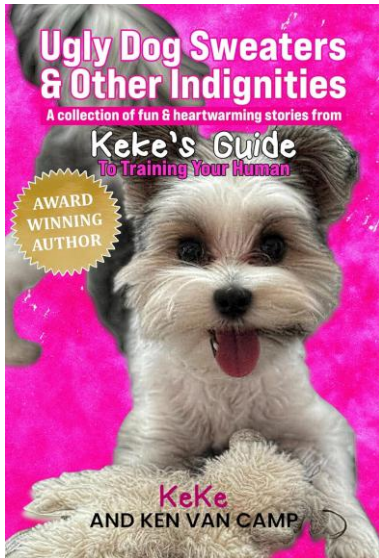
*Patchington at Spanish Springs  
Town Square,*

*Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>*

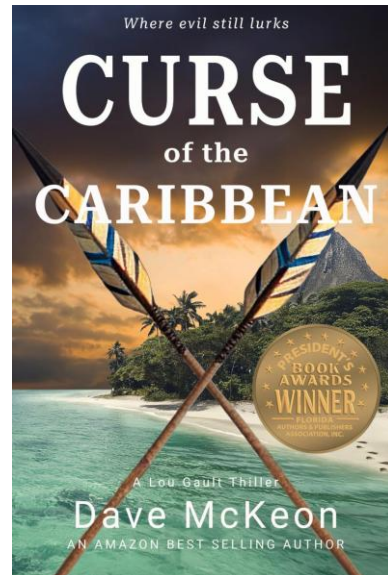
*Author Jeanne Rogers will be  
presenting and signing her  
award-winning books.*

*Please come out and meet the authors and support our WLOV community.  
Your support is invaluable.*

## Accomplishments by Our Members



*Ken Van Camp's new book "Ugly Dog Sweaters and Other Indignities" is a finalist for the Chanticleer 2025 Mark Twain Humor and Satire Book Awards*



*Dave McKeon's new book is also a finalist for the Chanticleer 2025 Award in the thriller category.*

***Chanticleer is an international competition covering a wide range of genres. It's a great achievement to make it to the finalist list in this competitive contest. Congratulations to both of these talented writers for ascending all the way to this level.***

## *A Word From Rita Boehm, Communications Director for WLOV*

### **SCAMS**

Thanks to AI, it has become easier for scammers—and harder for the rest of us. Some scams to be on the lookout for:

- Receipt of an email that appears to be from another WLOV member asking for your help, or for gift cards. If you have even the slightest question, call the person or email [WLOVwriters@gmail.com](mailto:WLOVwriters@gmail.com). Another approach to verifying the sender's validity: hover your mouse over the email address. You are likely to see that it is coming from an email address you don't recognize, indicating they've hijacked the member's name.

- Receipt of emails that a) provide glowing reviews of your books, or b) invite you to speak to an online book club or at a national literary event

THEY ARE SCAMS – Unfortunately!

Note: Local Villages book clubs sometimes do solicit speakers. It should be very easy to tell the difference.

What happens if you respond to the scammers? They will attempt to sell you a variety of expensive services. Others will try to hack your KDP accounts.

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO FIND THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SCAMMERS?

Go to: [writerbeware.blog](http://writerbeware.blog)

You can also do a Google search, using the information from the email, and asking a simple question, such as, “Is Mary Oliphant a legitimate book reviewer?”, or “Does the Seattle Book Club solicit authors?”

**Please be aware and stay safe!**

### **PRMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:**

We are always looking to expand promotional opportunities for our members. If you know of any business that may be willing to support local authors, contact Rita Boehm at [wlovwriters@gmail.com](mailto:wlovwriters@gmail.com).

**All Booked Up, Colony Plaza** – If you are interested in having your books featured at this great independent Villages book store (1 title for 2 months with an opportunity for a book signing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month), contact Donna Hoover at [duciesmom@aol.com](mailto:duciesmom@aol.com) or sign up at our next WLOV meeting.

**Patchington, Spanish Springs** - Contact Judith Glynn at [Judith@judithglynn.com](mailto:Judith@judithglynn.com) if you are interested in doing a book signing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 12 – 4 at this wonderful women’s clothing store.

**THE VILLAGES MAGAZINE**: Monthly Author Spotlight

If you haven’t been spotlighted in THE VILLAGES MAGAZINE in the last 18 months, contact us at [WLOVwriters@gmail.com](mailto:WLOVwriters@gmail.com) and we’ll forward a questionnaire.

**Publishing Services Directory**:

Pleased with the publishing services you received from an individual or company? Share the info with your fellow WLOV members by submitting the service provider’s contact info to [WLOVwriters@gmail.com](mailto:WLOVwriters@gmail.com). We’ll add them to our Services Directory.

**BOOKEXPLO 2027 – Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2027**

Save the date!

Registration forms for BookExpo 2027 will be available to members in early July. The event opens to the public on September 1 and is usually sold out by early October. Plan accordingly so you don’t miss out.

Expo committee: If you want to be a part of planning and executing this exciting annual event, contact Rita Boehm at [WLOVwriters@gmail.com](mailto:WLOVwriters@gmail.com). Our first committee meeting will be held in May.



*Know of a member recuperating from surgery, down with the flu, suffering from the loss of a loved one – or facing some other traumatic event? Please contact us at [wlovwriters@gmail.com](mailto:wlovwriters@gmail.com) and share the member's name and situation. Or, come to the Membership Services table at a General Meeting and let one of us know.*

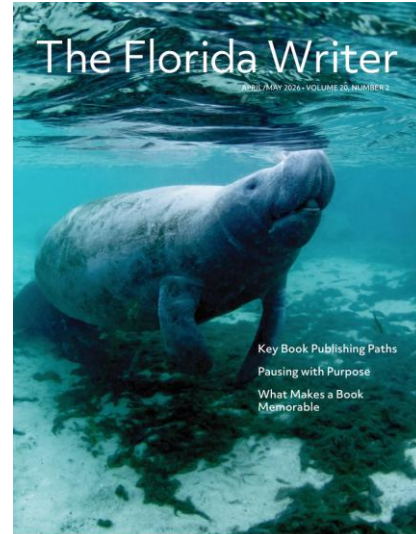
*We'll forward the information to our Sunshine Committee Chair, Kathy DeMaCarty, who will send them a card with a caring message to show WLOV's support.*

## News from Our April Meeting

### Newly Published Work Announced



*“Till Death Do Us Part”*, by Allie Ross. This is the newest title in her cozy mystery series.



*“The Mill Roof”*, an essay by Tom Bruce, April 2026 edition, The Florida Writers Magazine

### New Members Introduced

- **Joanne Garecea** writes children’s books that have an autistic child as the main character. Two of her titles are *Mila’s First Day of Courage* and *The Brave Year*.
- **Susan Cramer** worked in Pennsylvania tech communications for many years and is interested in writing magical realism.

## *A Quick Look at Our Current Writing Groups*

Many WLOV members belong to one or more of the listed groups, but WLOV membership is not a requirement. The only requirement to join these groups is that you live in The Villages and want to connect with other writers to share your work. Critique groups have long been considered by our published authors to be the lifeblood of what we're all about as writers, and they provide the opportunity to hear how your writing is perceived by other authors. Tom Bruce

**Group Name: Wannabee Writers**

**Meeting:** Mondays at 8:15-11:00 a.m., Lake Miona Recreation Center in the Courageous Room.

**Contact:** Rich Greenberg at [350-6056](tel:352-6056) or [greenzilla@gmail.com](mailto:greenzilla@gmail.com)

**Group Name: Writers of The Villages**

**Meeting:** Tuesdays at 9:00-10:50 a.m. at Bradenton Recreation Center

**Contact:** Millard Johnson at [zendog3@mac.com](mailto:zendog3@mac.com) or 317-584-5071

**Group Name: Writers4Kids**

**Meeting:** Meets every Friday, 9 to 10:50 a.m., in the Jasmine Room at Hibiscus Recreation Center.

**Contact:** Mark H. Newhouse, [mark@newhouse.net](mailto:mark@newhouse.net) or 352-753-3290

**Group Name: Creative Writers Group (CWG)**

**Meeting:** Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. at Laurel Manor Recreation Center.

**Contact:** Mike Doyle at [tmdoyle20@gmail.com](mailto:tmdoyle20@gmail.com) or 352-693-2313

**Group Name: Working Writers Workshop (Advanced Writers Workshop)**

**Meeting:** Tuesdays at 8:30-11:30, Canal Rec Center

**Contact:** Eric Honour, [ehonoursr@gmail.com](mailto:ehonoursr@gmail.com) or 850-450-0429

**Group Name: Short Story Writers**

**Meeting:** 2nd Friday of month, 10:00 – 11:20 am, at Laurel Manor Recreation Center

**Contact:** Tom Leonard, at [352-753-2917](tel:352-753-2917)

**Group Name: Memoir Writers Plus**

**Meeting:** 10 a.m. Tuesdays at the Chula Vista Recreation Center.

**Contact:** Mary Ann Sinopoli [msinopoli2@gmail.com](mailto:msinopoli2@gmail.com) or 630-220-9405

**Group Name: Writing Is Fun**

**Meeting:** 1&3W 10 a.m., Sea Breeze Rec Center

**Contact:** Constance McGee, (352) 633-8744 or [cmcgee.135@gmail.com](mailto:cmcgee.135@gmail.com)

**Group Name: South Fun & Creative Writers**

**Meeting:**

**Contact:** Eliz Neilson 352-552-0321 [eliz.neilson.77@gmail.com](mailto:eliz.neilson.77@gmail.com) or 407-529-8533

**Group Name: Writers of The Villages - South**

**Meeting:**

**Contact:** Dick Domann, [richarddomann@yahoo.com](mailto:richarddomann@yahoo.com) or 919-794-1576

**Group Name: Author Critique Group**

**Meeting:**

**Contact:** Larry Moran - 571-233-8605 [larrymoran1946@hotmail.com](mailto:larrymoran1946@hotmail.com)

**Group Name: Writers In Time**

**Meeting:**

**Contact:** John Mallon [352-633-2189](tel:352-633-2189)

**Group Name: Poetry Workshop**

**Meeting:**

**Contact:** Mark Rissman [poet221@aol.com](mailto:poet221@aol.com) or 352- 552-0321